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H –3156

International Court of Justice

H3156 – 0002

OFFICE OF CHIEF OF COUNSEL FOR WAR CRIMES

EVIDENCE DIVISION

Date : 21 July 1948

I certify that Document Number 3248-PS was introduced into evidence as Exhibit Number USA-569 in the Trial by the International Military Tribunal of Hermann GOERING, et al, which commenced on 20 November 1945, and that the attached photostat is a true and correct copy of the original.

Fred Uebergall

Fred UEBERGALL
Chief, Document
Control Branch.

H3156 - 0003

C E R T I F I C A T E

I hereby certify that the annexed document 3248-PS No. USA - 569 is a photostat of an original document submitted in evidence by the United States Prosecution under this number. The original document has been withdrawn in accordance with Rule 10 of the International Military Tribunal, and to the best of my knowledge and belief is to be held at the National Archives, Washington D.C. .

Nuremberg, 1 July 1948

Paul Joosten

PAUL A. JOOSTEN

General Secretary
International Military
Tribunal

H3156 – 0004

3256-PS

The fighting of Nationalsocialism in the diocese of the Apostolic Administration Innsbruck – Feldkirch,
of Tyrol and Vorarlberg.

After having seized power Nationalsocialism immediately showed the tendency to exclude Church from Publicity. At " Corpus- Christi" in 1938 the customary solemn procession was forbidden. In the Summer of the same year all ecclesiastical schools and Kindergartens were disbanded. Daily Newspapers and weekly reviews of Christian thinking were likewise removed. In the same year all kind of ecclesiastical organisations especially " Youth-organisations such as " Boy Scouts were disbanded, all activity forbidden.

The effect of these prohibitions came soon: The clergy took opposition against them, they could not do otherwise. Then a great wave of priest-arrests followed. About a fifth of them were eventually arrested. Reasons for arrests were:

1. The " Pulpit-paragraph " When Party actions were mentioned or criticized even in the humblest manner.

2. The " practise of the " care of Young people. A specially heavy prohibition was given in November 1939. Children's or Youth's Mass or Services were forbidden. Religion or Faith-lessons were not allowed to be given in the Church except Lessons of preparing for First Communion or Confirmation. Teaching of religiom at scholl was very often forbidden without any reason.

The priest , according to his conscience could not follow this public proscription and this explained the great number of arrests of priests. Finally, priests were arrested on account of their " caritative " work. It was for instance forbidden to give anything to foreigners or prisoners. A priest was arrested because he gave a cup of coffee and bread to two hungry Dutchmen. This " caritative " act was seen to favour elements foreign to the race.

In 1939 and 1940 a new activity began. Cloisters and abbeys were seized, disbanded and many churches belonging to them closed. Among these two nun-convents were disbanded: the cloister of the Dominican-sisters of Bludenz and that of the " Perpetual Adoration " of Innsbruck. In the latter , the Sisters were dragged, one by one, out of the cloister, by the " Gestapo ". In the same way ecclesiastical property such as Association-Houses, Parish and Youth-Homes were seized. (A list of these closed churches, disbanded cloisters, and ecclesiastical institutions is attached.

Despite all these measures, the results were not satisfactory. Then priests not only were arrested, but also deported to concentration-camps. Eight priests of Tyrol and Vorarlberg have been imprisoned, among them the Provicar Monsignore Dr. Charles Lampert. One died there on account of the ill treatment, the others returned. Provicar Lampert was released but required to remain in Stettin, where later, he was rearrested and executed in November 1944, after having been condemned to death by secret proceedings.

Since 1941 the fight against Christianity and Church shows generally no new phases. On account of the misfortune in warfare, restrictions were eased somewhat, but nothing once ordered has been anulled. The same anti- Christian direction was kept, though moderated.

The especially severe measures against the churches in Tyrol and Vorarlberg were enacted by the Gauleiter Franz Hofer, who derived his authority and protection from Berlin.

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Innsbruck, june, 27th, 1945.

+ Paulus Rusch
Bishop

Sworn to before me this 27th day of December 1945, at Innsbruck.
Leonard Wheeler, Jr. Col. G.S.C.
Summary Court officer

H3156 - 0005

Bishop Rusch, Innsbruck

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List

of the churches, convents, monasteries and ecclesiastical objects of Tyrol and Vorarlberg, seized respectively confiscated, further of the Institutions, confessional schools etc. disbanded:

I. Churches.

1. "Court"-Church of Innsbruck, closed.
2. Abbey-Church Wilten in Innsbruck, disbanded and closed.
3. Church of the Rev. Fath. "of Our Lady's Servitors" seized and closed.
4. Church of the Rev. Capuchin Fathers in Innsbruck, seized, closed, inside demolished.
5. Church of the " Perpetual Adoration" in Innsbruck, seized, turned into military establishment, inside demolished.
6. "County-House"-Church, closed and inside demolished.
7. Church of the " Canisianum" Of the Rev. Jesuits-Fathers, seized and closed.
8. Pilgrimage-Church with Parsonage on the " Hungerburg" in Innsbruck, seized and sold, but the church remained open.
9. Branch-Church in Wilten-West, in Innsbruck, closed.
10. Church in Mentelberg, near Innsbruck, closed.
11. Church of the Rev. Franciscan-Fathers in Hall, seized, closed, inside demolished.
12. Chapel of the Lunatic-Asylum and feeble-minded in Solbad Hall, closed, the chaplain-office disbanded.
13. Chapel of the Agriculture-Institution of Rotholz closed, the Chaplain-office disbanded.
14. Chapel of the Agriculture-Institution of Imst closed, Chaplain-office disbanded.
15. Abbey-Church of Fiecht near Schwaz, seized and closed.
16. Pilgrimage-Church of the "Mount of Saint-Georges" seized and closed.
17. Abbey-Church of Stams seized and closed.
18. Abbey Church of Saint Gallus in Bregenz, seized and closed, inside demolished.
19. Abbey-Church Mehrerau in Bregenz, seized, remained although open.
20. Ground to be used of building a church in Wilten-Westend, Innsbruck, seized, built over.
21. Ground to be used of building a church in " Saggen", Innsbruck, seized, built over.
22. Pilgrimage-Church " Maria Waldrast" near Matrei a.Br., seized and closed.
23. Cloister-Church of the Rev. Capuchin-Fathers of Bludenz, seized, closed, inside partly demolished.
24. Convent-Church of the Dominican-Sisters of Bludenz, seized, closed, inside partly demolished.
25. The church of Hintertux, being in construction has been destroyed.
26.

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H3156 – 0006

NB. Besides the churches and chapels mentionated above, the chapels of the disbanded ecclesiastical Schools, Institutions etc. have equally been disbanded and closed. Many of them turned into military establishments.

NB. In Innsbruck the following churches have been heavely damaged by bombs:

Saint James' Dean-Church

Church of the Rev. Jesuits-Fathers

Abbey - Church of Wilten

Church of " Our Blessed Lady's Servitors"

Church of the Ursulin-Sisters

Church of the Carmelite -Sisters

Less damaged:

Parish-Church, Pradl.

Parish-Church of the Holy Trinity

Saint John's, Innrain

Parish-Church, Wilten

Parish-Church, Hötting

Parish-Church, Mariahilf.

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II. Cloisters, Monasteries.etc.

1. The Abbey of Wilten in Innsbruck with all its goods in Innsbruck, Hlgen Wasser(Igls), Kematen and Lüsens, disbanded and seized.
2. The cloister of the Rev. Jesuit-Fathers in Innsbruck with Zenzenhof in Vill, seized.
3. The Cloister of the Rev. Capuchin Fathers in Innsbruck, seized.
4. The Monastery of "Our Ladie's Servitors"
5. The Monastery of the Rev. Fathers of "Our Saviour", forced-hired for the largest part.
6. The Cloister of the Rev. Fathers of Saint Benedict, Innsbruck, seized
7. Mission-House of the " Mission-Priest of the Sacred Heart of Jesus , Innsbruck-Hötting, forced-hired by the greatest pa
8. Mission-House of Saint Joseph's Missionaries in Absam, forced-hired.
9. Cloister of the Rev. Franciscan Fathers, Solbad Hall, seized.
10. Abbey of Fiecht of the Rev. Fathers of the Order of Saint Benedict with all their proprietaries and goods in Fiecht, Sanct Georgenberg etc. seized.
11. Cloister of the Rev. Our Blessed Lady's Servitors" in Volders, seized, respectively forced-hired.
12. Cloister of the Rev. Fathers of Saint Benedict, Volders, seized.
13. Abbey of the Rev. Fathers of Saint Bernard, Stams, with all their estates, seized.

24. Dec. 45

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Bishop

H3156 - 0007

14. Mission-House Fernstein of the Rev. Fathers of Saint Benedict, in Nassereith, seized.
15. Cloister of the Rev. Capuchin-Fathers, Landeck-Perjen, seized.
16. Cloister of the Rev. "Servitors of Our Blessed Lady" Maria Waldrast near Matrei a.Br., seized.
17. Abbey of the Rev. Fathers of Saint Bernard, Mehrerau, Brgenz, Seized.
18. Mission-Boarding-House of Saint John-Xaver of the Fathers of the Precious Blood, Feldkirch, seized.
19. College Lochau, near Bregenz of the Rev. Salvatorian Fathers, forced-hired.
20. Cloister of the Rev. Capuchin-Fathers, Bludenz, seized.
21. Convent of the Sisters of "Perpetual Adoration", Innsbruck, seized.
22. Convent of the Dominican-Sisters of Saint Peter, Bludenz, seized.
23. Cloister of the Ursulin-Sisters, Innsbruck, forced-hired for the largest part.
24. Abbey of Saint Gallus, Bregenz, seized.

III. Other ecclesiastical establishments, Associations and " Youth-Homes ".

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1. Theological Institute " Canisianum " of the Rev. Jesuit Fathers, Innsbruck, with Taxerhof in Ampass, seized.
2. College-Boarding-School of the Rev. Jesuit Fathers, Innsbruck, seized.
3. "Youth-Home " Sieberer, of the Rev. Fathers of Saint Francis of Sales, Innsbruck, seized.
4. Boarding-house of the Rev. Fathers of Saint Benedict, Innsbruck, with typography, publishing-house and Bookseller's shop-seized.
5. Home for Pupils of the Rev. Fathers " Maristes" Innsbruck, Innrain, seized.
6. Orphanage-Asylum for girls with Chapel, Museumstreet, Innsbruck, seized, Chapel distroed.
7. Marienheim, for young girls studying on the University or working in offices, Innsbruck, Maximilianstreet, seized.
8. " Margaretinum" Household-School and Boardinghouse, Innsbruck-Hötting, seized.
9. Boarding-House" Leopoldinum " of the Rev. Franciscan-Fathers, Solbad Hall, seized.
10. Education-Institue for Boys of the Rev. Capuchin Fathers, Fügen, seized.
11. Boarding-House of the Rev. Capuchin Fathers, Feldkirch, seized.
12. Orphanage-Asylum and Education-Institue for Boys, of the Salesian-Fathers in Jagsberg, seized.
13. Home for religious Retreats, Hall closed.
14. Home for religious Retreats of the Rev. Jesuit-Fathers, Feldkirch-Tisis closed, disbanded.
15. Boarding-House for Girl of the Francican-Sisters, Kronburg near Zams, disbanded.
16. Hospital of the Brothers of Mercy in Kreckelmoos near Reutte, seized.
17. Sanatorium of the Rev. Fathers of Saint Bernard, Mehrerau-Brggenz, seized.
18. Saint-Joseph's Home of the Sisters of Saint Benedict, Grins near

7 dec. 45 A 093908

H3156 - 0008

3278-PS
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near Landeck, seized.

19. All " Catholic Youth- or Association-Houses " seized, so as for instan in Innsbruck-Wilten, Innsbruck-St. Nicolaus, Innsbruck-Mariahilf, Innsbruck Pradl, Innsbruck-Hötting, in Imst, Telfs, Landeck, Inzing, Tarrenz, Haiming, Absam, Hall, Mils b/Hall, Wattens, Schwaz, Jenbach, Achental, Ehrwald Tannheim, etc, etc.

20. The Journeymen-association-Houses in Innsbruck, Hall, Schwaz, Lienz etc. seized.

21. The Houses of the Saint Vincenz-Association Saint James, Innsbruck, Kapuziner-street Nos. 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37, 37a, were seized after the disbanding of the association.

22. All the catholic societies, Associations Unions, Congregations of Our Blessed Lady, ecclesiastical alliances and ligues, Confraternities etc. were disbanded and their fortune seized.

IV. Ecclesiastical Institutes, Schools, Institutions etc.

1. Theological Faculty of the University in Innsbruck, disbanded.
2. Episcopal Seminary in Matrei, disbanded.
3. Episcopal " Little" Seminary with College and Boarding-House, Schwaz, Paulinum disbanded.
4. College and Boarding-Houses of the Rev. Franciscan Fathers, Solbad Hall, disbanded
5. College and Boarding-House of the Rev. Jesuit-Fathers in Feldkirch, called, Stella Matutina, disbanded
6. College and Boarding-House of the Abbey of Meherau, Bregenz, disbanded
7. Teacher's Pedagogical-Institue of the Christian-Schools Brothers, Feldkirch, seized and desbanded.
8. Economy-School of the Christian-Schools-Brothers, with Boarding-house in Lienz, disbanded.
9. Trades-Schools with " shops" and workshops of the Rev. Fathers of Saint Benedict, Martinsbühel near Zirl, disbanded
10. Institute of Saint Bonifacius of the Rev. Salesian-Fathers in Fulpmes Stubai-valley, disbanded, forced-hired.
11. Highschool with Boarding-house of the Rev. Fathersof Saint Benedict, Volders, disbanded and seized.
12. Elementary and High-School of the rev. Fathers of Saint Benedict, Fiecht near Schwaz, disbanded and seized.
13. Teacher's Pedagogical-Institute for Girls of the Sisters of Charity, Zams, disbanded.
14. "Girls-Schools of the Sisters of Charity, Zams, disbanded.
15. Teachers's Pedagogical-Institute for Girls of the Sisters of Charity, Innsbruck, disbanded.
16. "Girls-Schools of the Sisters of Charity of Innsbruck, disbanded.
17. "Girls-Schools of the Ursulin-Sisters, Innsbruck, disbanded.

17 dec. 45 A 093909 + Paulus Rusch bishop

18. Grils-Schools of the Sisters of " Visitation " with Boarding-House. Thurnfeld,disbanded.
19. Schools for Girls with Boarding-House of the Schools-Sisters in Pfaffen hofen, disbanded.
20. Schools for Girls of the Franciscan Tertiar-Sisters,Solbad,Hall disbanded.
21. Schools for girls of the Dominican-Sisters,Lienz, Disbanded.
22. Schools for girls of the Dominican-Sisters,Altenstadt, disbanded.
23. " " Thalbach-Bregenz,disbanded.
24. " with Boarding-House.Marienberg,Bregenz, disbanded.
25. " " Riedenburg-Bregenz,disbanded.
26. School of Householding, Gauenstein,near Schruns,disbanded.
27. Needle-work-School/Industry-School/ .Gwiggen, Hohenweiler,disbanded.
28. Orphanage-asylum with elementary and High-School of the Franciscan-Tertiar-Sisters,Schwaz,disbanded.
29. Girl-School with Boarding-House, of the Sisters of Saint Benedic, Scharnitz,disbanded.
30. Girl-School with Boarding-House of Saint Joseph,of the Sisters of the Holy Cross,Feldkirch, disbanded.
31. Girls-Schools with a House of religious Retreats ,called"Saint Antony's of the Sisters of the Holy Cross,Feldkirch,disbanded

N.B. Besides this all,the ecclesiastical teachers of the nun-convents have been removed from all public-schools in the municipalities and communities.

Nov. 45 + Paulus Rusch
bishop

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INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIALS · NÜRNBERG ·

EXHIBIT U.S.A.

569

(3278-PS)

A. 093903

H3156 – 0010

H3156-0011

6. Pages